

April 5, 2001

as passenger trains, buses and planes, the amusement park industry's fatality rate is actually worse.

Some states try to step in where the CPSC cannot, but states with inspection programs are very uneven depending on which agency has the responsibility and whether its expertise is design, operator training, manufacturing, etc. No state, and no industry organization, provides the national clearinghouse function that the CPSC currently provides for mobile rides and could provide for fixed-site rides.

FATALITIES

Although the overall risk of death on an amusement park ride is very small, it is not zero. In the course of one week in August 1999, for example, 4 deaths occurred on roller coasters, which U.S. News & World Report termed "one of the most calamitous weeks in the history of America's amusement parks":

August 22—a 12-year-old boy fell to his death after slipping through a harness on the Drop Zone ride at Paramount's Great America Theme Park in Santa Clara, California;

August 23—a 20-year-old man died on the Shockwave roller coaster at Paramount King's Dominion theme park near Richmond, Virginia;

August 28—a 39-year-old woman and her 8-year-old daughter were killed when their car slid backward down a 30-foot ascent and crashed into another car, injuring two others on the Wild Wonder roller coaster at Gillian's Wonderland Pier in Ocean City, New Jersey.

Each of these tragedies is an opportunity for the CPSC to search for causes and share its insights with the operators of other similar rides. Unless the law is changed, however, it cannot perform this role.

One final point—the industry has the unfortunate habit of belittling the risk of loved ones getting mangled or killed on these machines by suggesting that the risk of getting hurt is lower than for "bowling" or "watering your garden." In fact, the fatality rate on roller coasters approximates the risk of dying on passenger trains, buses and airplanes. None of those industries claims any exemption from federal oversight, and investigations by federal safety experts of train accidents, bus accidents or plane crashes is central to minimizing the recurrence of serious or fatal accidents in America.

Yet this common sense eludes the amusement park industry, to the detriment of the safety of children and adult riders alike.

As the spring and summer riding season begins, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this modest restoration of safety to all parkgoers. Thank you.

ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL AMUSEMENT PARK RIDE SAFETY ACT

NATIONAL CONSUMER GROUPS

Consumer Federation of America
Consumers Union
U.S. Public Interest Research Group
National SAFE KIDS Campaign

STATE & LOCAL CONSUMER GROUPS

American Council on Consumer Awareness
Arizona Consumers Council
Center for Public Representation (WI)
Chicago Consumer Coalition

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Columbia Consumer Education Council (SC)
The Consumer Alliance (midwest regional alliance)

Consumer Law Center of the South
Democratic Processes Center (AZ)
Empire State Consumer Association (NY)
Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group

Mercer County Community Action Agency (PA)

North Carolina Consumers Council
Oregon Consumer League

THE PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE COOPERATION ACT OF 2001

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join my friend from Michigan, Mr. KILDEE, me, and 114 of our colleagues to support the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 2001. I am proud of this bipartisan effort to aid our firefighters and police in this common sense effort to increase fairness.

This bill is supported by the International Association of Fire Fighters, International Brotherhood of Police Officers, International Union of Police Organizations, National Association of Police Organizations, and the Fraternal Order of Police.

Firefighters and police men and women protect the public everyday. These men and women are true public servants who put themselves in harm's way for others. Is it too much to ask that they be allowed to bargain for wages, hours, and safer working conditions? No. This bill helps workers, management, and the general public, because better employer-employee cooperation leads to cost savings and better delivery of services.

Congress has long recognized the importance of assuring and protecting the right of workers to collectively bargain. Federal laws have been extended to guarantee collective bargaining to different sectors and now the only sizeable group of workers without the right to collectively bargain are employees of State and local government.

Fire fighters and police officers take seriously their oath to protect the public and as a result they do not engage in worker slowdowns or stoppages. This bill would not allow for strikes or slowdowns, only the right to bargain collectively. The absence of this collective bargaining denies them opportunity to influence decisions that affect their livelihoods and families.

The Public Safety Employer-Employee Act establishes basic minimum standards that state laws must meet and provides a process to resolve impasses in States without such laws. States that already have collective bargaining laws would be exempt from the Federal statute. Furthermore, this bill prohibits strikes and does not call for mandatory binding arbitration.

I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting the bipartisan Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 2001.

5791

THE PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE COOPERATION ACT OF 2001

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to join my friend from Ohio, Mr. Ney, myself, and over 100 of their colleagues, to support the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 2001.

Congress has long recognized the importance of assuring and protecting the right of workers to collectively bargain. Over the years, federal laws have been extended to guarantee collective bargaining to different sectors and now the only sizeable group of workers without the rights to collectively bargain are employees of state and local government.

Fire fighters and police officers take seriously their oath to protect the public and as a result they do not engage in worker slowdowns or stoppages. The absence of the right to collectively bargain denies them the opportunity to influence decisions that affect their livelihoods and families.

The Public Safety Employer-Employee Act establishes basic minimum standards that state laws must meet and provides a process to resolve impasses in states without such laws. States that already have collective bargaining laws would be exempt from the federal statute. Furthermore, this bill prohibits strikes and does not call for mandatory binding arbitration.

Firefighters and police men and women risk their lives every day to protect the public. At the very least, they should be allowed to bargain for wages, hours, and safe working conditions. This bill helps workers, management, and the general public, because employer-employee cooperation leads to cost savings and better delivery of services.

This bill is supported by the International Association of Fire Fighters, International Brotherhood of Police Officers, International Union of Police Organizations, National Association of Police Organizations, and the Fraternal Order of Police.

I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 2001.

HONORING DEB BUSWELL OF LACROSSE, WI

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a constituent of mine, and a very special teacher, Debra Buswell. Debra Buswell was recently named Outstanding Environmental Educator of the Year. Debra, a teacher at Longfellow Middle School from my home town of La Crosse, Wisconsin, is currently the team leader for the School on the River program, housed within Longfellow. This program

allows students to work on a variety of environmental projects, including stocking fish with Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources and compiling river information for the U.S. Geological Survey's Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center.

It is also with great pleasure that I recognize the School on the River program itself as one of eight recipients to receive a Seaworld/Busch Gardens 2001 Environmental Excellence Award. This award recognizes the efforts of students to protect and preserve the environment at a local level. In addition to national recognition for its outstanding achievements, the School on the River will receive \$15,000 for specialized equipment, 100 T-shirts, trophies and certificates, and all-expense-paid trips for three students and one teacher to attend ceremonies in Florida and Missouri.

All of us in the La Crosse area applaud the efforts of Debra Buswell and Principal Glen Jenkins for their outstanding efforts to raise environmental consciousness among Longfellow students, and at the same time, to engage students in non-traditional learning environments. This exposure to critical thinking and higher mathematical skills, management techniques, and team building exercises will benefit them for years to come. With the dedication and support of the school, Principal Jenkins, and Debra Buswell, this ten-year old program is now beginning to receive the national recognition it deserves. I congratulate Principal Jenkins, Debra Buswell, and the students who participate in the program for their hard work and dedication to improving the local environment in their home community.

With the continued awareness of the importance to having a healthy environment, I am grateful that students and residents from western Wisconsin remain committed to improving the local environment for the benefit of this generation and the many generations to follow. It is my sincere hope that we can here in Congress take this example back to our own communities to strengthen our own constituents' efforts to raise awareness regarding local environmental issues.

Obviously, the teaching going on at Longfellow Middle School is near and dear to my heart. Growing up, I spent a lot of time along the Mississippi River. Now I live right on the Mississippi, and take my two sons down to the River to fish, or just explore, whenever possible. The important role the Mississippi River plays in the lives of my constituents is, in fact, why I helped form the bipartisan Mississippi River Caucus as one of the first things I did when joining Congress. I also continually support initiatives to benefit the river such as the EMP program and the Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge. And this year, I will reintroduce my Upper Mississippi River Basin Conservation Act.

On behalf of the residents of western Wisconsin, I proudly commend Debra Buswell on her recognition as an Outstanding Environmental Educator. I also commend the School on the River for being recognized for its efforts to improve the local environment in western Wisconsin. The La Crosse School District and local community are better places to live thanks to the efforts of these middle-school students and their dedicated teacher.

IN HONOR OF RICHARD KWASNESKI, MAYOR OF LEMONT, IL

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Kwasneski, who in just a few weeks will be retiring as Mayor of Lemont, Illinois, which is located in my congressional district.

Our local governments could not work if it were not for people like Rick—they serve their hometowns for no other reason than because they love where they live.

Rick Kwasneski surely loves Lemont. For the past 16 years, Rick has served the people of Lemont with dedication and honor, first as a Village Trustee for eight years and then as Mayor for the past eight.

As Mayor, Rick led the economic and physical revitalization of Lemont's historic downtown area, created a Historic District in the downtown area to promote and preserve the rich history of Lemont, and reconstructed the town's aging infrastructure and roadways. He also lowered the Village's property tax rate to its lowest level in 25 years.

Rick is a tireless champion for Lemont, always working to improve the Village wherever there is a need. The residents of Lemont were lucky to have him as Mayor and I know he will be missed.

I am going to miss Rick as well. Since I came to Congress a little over two years ago, Rick has been a valuable partner on issues important to Lemont, such as the southern extension of I-355 and extra train service on the Heritage Corridor rail line that serves Lemont.

Mr. Speaker, let me close by saying that we need more excellent individuals like Rick Kwasneski to go into public service. His selfless hard work and advocacy for Lemont are a model for all of us.

And even though he will no longer serve as Mayor of Lemont, I know that he will continue to have a strong presence in the community, lending a hand whenever and wherever it is needed.

FEBRUARY 22 FOREST ROUNDTABLE IN MISSOULA

HON. DENNIS REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, on February 22 I sponsored a roundtable discussion in Missoula, Montana on forest health issues. This discussion included presentations from a wide array of interests.

Representing the conservation community were Tom France of the National Wildlife Federation, Cesar Hernandez of the Montana Wilderness Association and Steve Thompson of the Montana Conservation Voters. Forest products industry witnesses were Kim Liles of the Pulp and Paperworkers Resource Council, Jim Hurst of Owens and Hurst Lumber, Sherm

Anderson of the Montana Logging Association and Roger Johnson of Pyramid Mountain Lumber. County governments were represented by Commissioners Barbara Evans of Missoula County, Alan Thompson of Ravalli County, Dale Williams of Flathead County and Rita Windham of Lincoln County. Providing creative ideas practiced on non-federal lands were Garry Orr of the Salish-Kootenai Tribes and Tom Schultz with the Montana Department of State Lands. Finally, the scientific and academic communities were represented by Drs. Chuck Keegan and Carl Fiedler of the University of Montana and U.S. Forest Service fire ecologist Steve Arno.

This roundtable, and one scheduled for April 18 in Hamilton, will provide me with firsthand accounts of what is working and not working regarding management of Montana's forests. As a member of both the House Committees on Agriculture and Resources, that have jurisdiction over forest management, I am seeking "made in Montana" solutions to our current challenges in forest management.

I encourage my colleagues to read the following article by Sherry Devlin on the Missoula roundtable that appeared in the February 23 Missoulian. I also highly recommend reading the testimony of Kim Liles who is a papermaker for Smurfit-Stone Container in Frenchtown, Montana and a member of Hellgate Local 8-0885 PACE International Union.

[From the Missoulian (MT), Feb. 23, 2001]

REHBERG GETS EARFUL ON FORESTS

INDUSTRY OFFICIALS SAY CONTROL SHOULD STAY WITH LOCAL EXPERTS

(By Sherry Devlin)

The rest of the country should just "butt out" and let Montanans manage the national forests in their back yards, a Eureka sawmill owner told U.S. Rep. Denny Rehberg's forest-management roundtable Thursday.

"I'm not going to tell the people of New York City how to manage Central Park," said Jim Hurst, owner of Owens and Hurst Lumber Co. "So why should they be telling us how to manage the Kootenai National Forest? I say they should butt out."

Montanans, Hurst said, can work their way through even the thorniest forest-management issues. It's the national dictates—of presidents, congressmen and bureaucrats—that make people dig in their heels.

So went the conversation during a four-hour, four-panel series of roundtable discussions at the University of Montana, called by Rehberg—he said—to learn more about forest-management issues and to look for common ground. "Is there anything that we can all agree on?" he asked.

"Yes," said paper maker Kim Liles. "I share everyone's concern for the health, conservation and beauty of this great state. I most certainly do not want to destroy the environment."

"Yes," said environmental lawyer Tom France. "If it's not just a rush to get timber off the hill, but a rush to do right by the land."

"Good," said Rehberg, the Republican elected in November to Montana's single seat in the House of Representatives. "People have this preconceived notion that I have a preconceived notion about forest management. And I don't. I am serious about the consensus process."

Collaboration can work; it can yield timber cutting and endangered-species recovery,